

## Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) ~~A~~ In a quick-acting valve, comprising:  
a valve opening,  
a valve member movable relative to the valve opening for controlling flow  
through the valve opening,  
a coil supplied by a voltage source for effecting movement of the valve  
member relative to the valve opening,  
a voltage-dependent resistor (33) provided between the voltage source  
and the coil, and  
an auxiliary voltage source connected in parallel to the coil, the voltage of  
said auxiliary voltage source being opposite to that of said voltage source,  
wherein the voltage-dependent resistor includes a plurality of electronic  
switches connected in series in the form of a cascade, said electronic switches each  
bridging a series resistor and being driven into the closing state when an input voltage  
applied by said voltage source falls below a given switching voltage whereby the  
electronic switches are driven simultaneously into the closing state.
2. (previously presented) The quick-acting valve according to claim 1,  
wherein the auxiliary voltage source comprises at least one Zener diode.
3. (previously presented) The quick-acting valve according to claim 1,  
wherein the auxiliary voltage source is connected in series with a rectifier diode and in  
parallel to the coil.
4. (cancelled)
5. (previously presented) The quick-acting valve according to claim 1,  
wherein the switching voltage is determined by a reference voltage path.
6. (currently amended) A quick-acting valve comprising:  
a valve opening,

a valve member movable relative to the valve opening for controlling flow through the valve opening,

a coil supplied by a voltage source for effecting movement of the valve member relative to the valve opening,

a voltage-dependent resistor provided between the voltage source and the coil, and

an auxiliary voltage source connected in parallel to the coil, the voltage of said auxiliary voltage source being opposite to that of said voltage source,

wherein the voltage-dependent resistor includes a plurality of electronic switches connected in series in the form of a cascade, said electronic switches each bridging a series resistor and being driven into the closing state when an input voltage applied by said voltage source falls below a given switching voltage, and

wherein each electronic switch is switched by an auxiliary transistor.

7. (previously presented) The quick-acting valve according to claim 6, wherein the auxiliary voltage source comprises at least one Zener diode.

8. (previously presented) The quick-acting valve according to claim 6, wherein the auxiliary voltage source is connected in series with a rectifier diode and in parallel to the coil.

9. (previously presented) The quick-acting valve according to claim 6, wherein the switching voltage is determined by a reference voltage path.